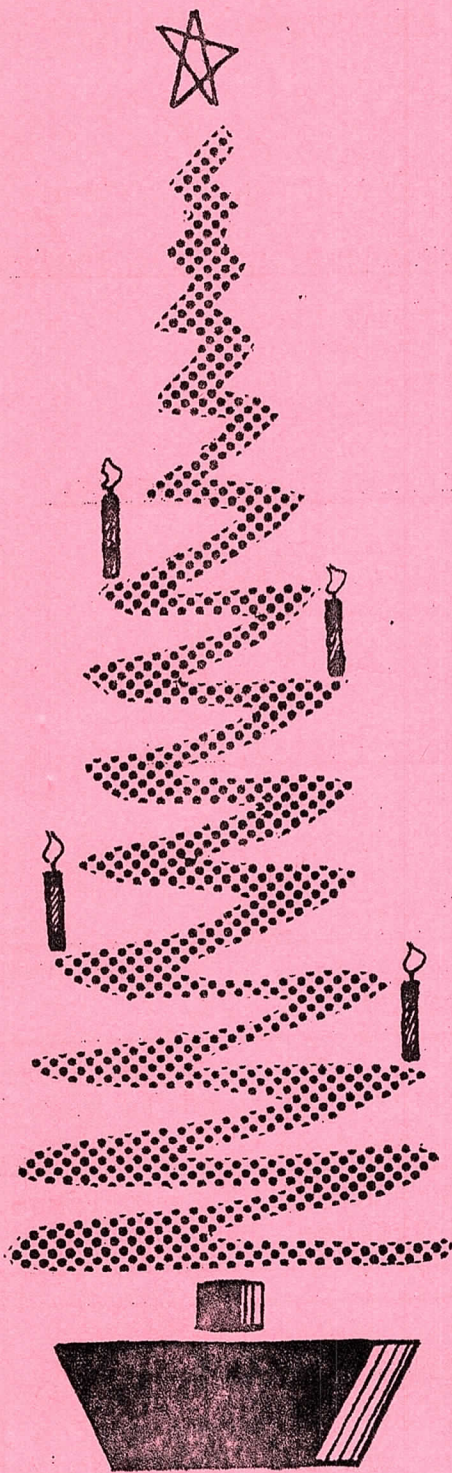


NO. 1. VOL. 1. NEW SERIES.



DECEMBER 1961.

CROSBY POST



C. A. WESTROPE

THE BRITISH CROSBY SOCIETY.

-:-

Honorary President =

Mr Bing Crosby, 9028, Sunset Boulevard, Hollywood 46, California, U.S.A.

Hon. Vice President:

Mr Larry Crosby,
9028, Sunset Boulevard,
Hollywood 46, California,
U.S.A.

President and Discologist:

Mr Frank Murphy,
45, Ferndale Avenue,
Wallsend,
Northumberland.

Publicity Officer:

Mr Jack Manners,
8, Jardin Street,
Camberwell,
London, S.E. 5.

American Correspondent:

Miss Pat Sullivan,
3004, W. Walls,
Apartment 109,
Milwaukee 8,
Wisconsin, U.S.A.

New Zealand Correspondent:

Mr Bill Frith,
47, Winston Road,
Mt. Roskill, Auckland 53,
New Zealand.

Crosby Post Editor:

Mr C.A. Westrope,
18 North Road,
Surrebiton,
Surrey.

Honorary Members include: Mr Michael Holliday, Mr George O'Reilly,
Mr Ken Sykora, Mr Charles Graves, Mr George Wood, O.B.E.

The British Crosby Society was formed in 1950, with the permission
of our Hon. President Mr Harry Lillis (Bing) Crosby, and is associated
with the American Club Crosby.

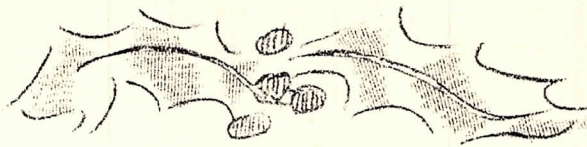
CROSBY POST, the private journal of the Society, is published
bi-monthly: February, April, June, August, October, December.

+++++
An 'X' here denotes that your renewal is now due!

To continue your membership (we hope you will!) please send a 10/-
postal order CROSSED and made PAYABLE to The British Crosby Society to
Mr Frank Murphy within 14 days of receipt of this issue.

NO FURTHER REMINDERS WILL BE SENT!

+++++



BING CROSBY,

Hollywood.

November 21st
1961

The British Crosby Society,
Frank Murphy, President,
45, Ferndale Avenue,
Wallsend.

Dear Club Members,

As I write this I am off by plane to our
ranch in Northern California in quest of
a few Canadian honkers. They breed on
our stream.

But I must not go hunting without first
a greeting to our good club members in
England.

It was nice being with you the past months,
and I wish you all the best Christmas ever!

Best to all,

(signed) BING

Larry Crosby.

November 14th
1961

Mr Frank Murphy,
The British Crosby Society.

Dear Frank:

Once again it's a great pleasure to extend Christmas
felicitations to our British club members.

Most Sincerely,

(signed) LARRY

THE STANLEY WHITE STORY

This day meant for me, a dream that came true, a dream which I thought could never come true. It was all through the kindness of Frank Murphy, who sent me a ticket which was an invitation from Messrs Associated-Rediffusion at their Wembley Studios, to see Bing Crosby Tele-record part of his TV show to be shown on American A.B.C. Television in December. I had met and talked to Bing and his lovely wife in September of 1960, in London, but I never thought I would actually be able to see and hear Bing singing in person.

It was a cold day on November 12th in London, and as I had journeyed a considerable distance, I went into the TV studios foyer early, where I was allowed to sit in the warm until it was time to enter the studios. This part, offered me by fortune, the opportunity of seeing another great star. As I sat there, in came about five men wrapped in heavy overcoats; they went to the reception desk and asked to be directed to the studio where Bing was working. The first person I recognized was the well known Radio and TV personality Jerry Desmond, who used to be the side kick for the late and great comedian Sid Field. Then I took a look at another chap who was wearing a hat, and it was the one and only Bob Hope. I did not recognize the others; as they went down the stairs to enter the corridor leading to the studio Bob Hope cracked "We look like an audition for a Gypsy band". Well, I did not see Bob do his part in the show, and Shirley Bassey also did her part before I had entered the studio, due to her having an engagement at night in the South of England.

At about 4.30 pm, I along with a lot of other people made our way into the studio, and I just stood and stared at the hundreds of huge lights hanging from all angles from the studio roof, along with monitor sets, microphones, and on the floor great tangles of cables and TV cameras. I sat myself on the front row of seats on the studio floor and waited, and as we waited, Bing and Rosy Clooney were to be heard singing for our entertainment from the "Fancy meeting You" LP. A studio manager then came along and said a few words to the audience, explaining about the scenes that had already been shot, and those which we were to see being recorded. Then he introduced that great personality Dave King, who did his best to warm up the audience. Dave did a great job, but everyone seemed to be waiting for someone else by this time. Dave sensed this and shouted out words to the effect of "Fetch that guy in from the Golf course". And sure enough, from behind the crowd of studio staff and TV cameras wandered that so familiar figure, to the tune of great applause. Bing Crosby came up to the audience and explained about the show which was running late, and he hoped that it did not cause inconvenience to anyone. If Bing only knew what his presense meant to all those in the audience, he need never have spoken those words. He also called out for Frank Murphy, but Frank was not able to make it, and Bing said he was sorry.

Bing then commenced with the opening announcement of his TV Show and then sang "GREAT DAY". This scene was shot twice as the tapes as the tapes were not running smoothly on the first take.

(over)

STANLEY WHITE continues his story of SUNDAY 12th November 1961

From then on, the whole thing was a dream come true; there was Bing and his guests going through one scene after another with no trouble at all. And Bing looked so smart in a very nice suit, and a delightful head of hair. He really looked in his forties, and most certainly not in his late fifties. They say Como is relaxed, but you should see Bing. He wandered about the huge studio floor as the cameras switched to another set, doing a little soft shoe shuffle to amuse himself, and whistling here and there. Then as the 30 second count down for the next take commenced, he just stood there without any apparent care in the world. And as the orchestra struck up he launched into his next song or scene as I can only imagine Bing can.

We saw him sing duets with Marion Ryan and Dave King, do a comedy routine with Terry Thomas and one with a girl whose name escapes me. She was taking the part of a painter, and with Bing did a number called "Things ain't what they used to be". Bing then joined some real London street buskers, and sang a song with them which leads up to another very funny scene in a law court: Bing having been arrested by a London Policeman for singing in the street without a licence. The Judge turns out to be a fan of Bing's, and comments "Whatever has happened in Hollywood for you to have to turn to singing in the streets?"

My great moment came when Bing walked right up to a TV camera not many yards from me, and announced his final number. I had never dared to dream that I would ever hear Bing sing in person, but I have always longed to hear him sing one number, within easy earshot of his actual voice...and my great moment came...he did not name the number but said words to the effect that "Here's one I should know well"...a shiver of delight ran right me as the orchestra and choir came in...and Bing's great voice was only equalled by the great song itself, Irving Berlin's one and only WHITE CHRISTMAS. As long as I live I swear I'll never forget that precious minute or two as Bing entranced everyone with the most famous song he has ever sung.

Bing thanked the audience for being so kind to him, and that was that. I did catch sight of several members of the Society, and people who take part in "Tape Crosby", but I was unable to stay for a chat as I had to rush to the station for my journey home. I did see Les Gaylor shake hands with Bing after the show. I'll bet everyone was delighted, I know I was. The completed show will be terrific, for Bing was in great voice.

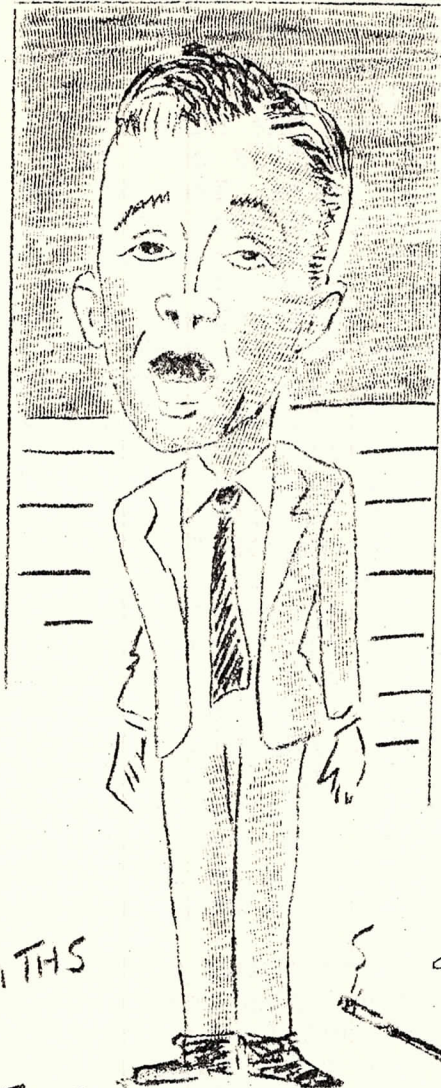
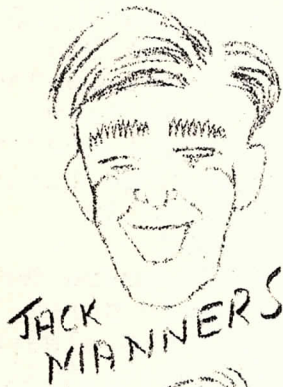
I travelled home on that Sunday night with a memory which overshadowed any other show business event I have ever witnessed. I recall with pleasure the first time I ever saw and heard Louis Armstrong, Jack Teagarden and Earl Hines, Michael Holliday, Kid Ory and his Jazz Band. I shall recall this Crosby show with pleasure, but that final number of Bing singing "White Christmas" within actual earshot, is the memory which overshadows everything.

Thank you Frank Murphy for the ticket, and thank you Bing Crosby for a dream which you alone could make come true, and which you did as no other person on this earth will ever do.

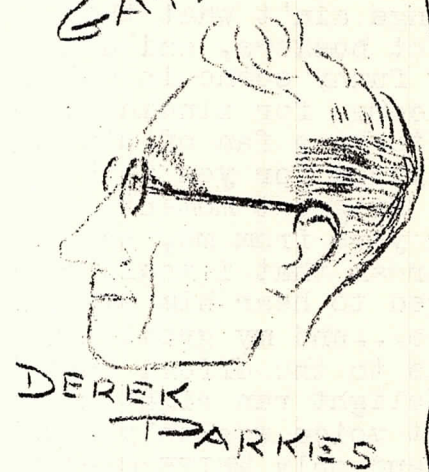
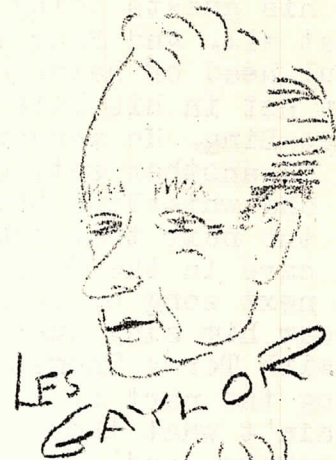
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THE BING CROSBY SHOW

SOME FACES
WE KNEW AT
THE TV. SHOW,
WEMBLY.



THAT
"WHITE CHRISTMAS"
MAN - BING!



AS SEEN
BY
Gawesthope



TERRY
THOMAS
BECAME
WRAPPED
UP
IN HIS WORK!

THE

Groaner in the Groove

BY FRANK MURPHY

Hallo, Collectors, there are three new L.P.'s to review this time, and we are certainly being looked after admirably by the major disc companies. There is also a whisper that part TWO of IOI Gang Songs is also about to arrive, but at the time of writing this review Decca have not advised me of this yet.

First on the list comes as most welcome..a reissue of Bing's earlier great Decca tracks under the title of:

OLD MASTERS VOL I DECCA ACE OF CLUBS AH I. PRICE 23/-

Here's a real bargain for everyone, even those already having the 78's will be adding this great L.P. to their collection. This is the line up of titles= SOMEDAY SWEETHEART: WOULD YOU: REMEMBER ME: SHOE SHINE BOY: DEAR OLD GIRL: YOU MUST HAVE BEEN A BEAUTIFUL BABY: IT'S THE DREAMER IN ME: MY REVERIE: OLD FOLKS: DON'T BE THAT WAY: MR GALLAGHER AND MR SHEEN: THE MOON OF MANAKOORA. What a treat for all, and it was especially gratifying to note the release for the first time in this country of MY REVERIE which presents Bing in his most vibrant style.

Next on the list is another from Decca, this time on the Brunswick label:

A MUSICAL AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF BING 1934 - 1941 BRUNSWICK LAT 8382

Here at last is the second part of the terrific biog set which was issued so long ago; it's many months since Decca gave us the first L.P. and I was beginning to think they had abandoned the idea of issuing the remaining 4 L.P's to the set, when this record arrived. And most welcome it is too, for many members have expressed their difficulties at buying such expensive packages in one go. This single release pattern should help greatly in that direction. This second L.P. features Bing mainly with the Buddy Cole Trio, though we do get a couple of relief items thrown in for good measure. Titles are: Side 1. I LOVE YOU TRULY: JUNE IN JANUARY: LOVE IS JUST AROUND THE CORNER: IT'S EASY TO REMEMBER: SOON: I WISHED ON THE MOON: SILENT NIGHT: I'M AN OLD COWHAND: I CAN'T ESCAPE FROM YOU: SONG OF THE ISLANDS: PENNIES FROM HEAVEN: SWEET LEILANI: BLUE HAWAII: THE ONE ROSE: Side 2, THERE'S A GOLDMINE IN THE SKY: MY HEART IS TAKING LESSONS: I'VE GOT A POCKETFUL OF DREAMS: SMALL FRY (WITH Johnny Mercer) MEXICALLI ROSE: THAT SLY OLD GENTLEMAN: EL RANCHO GRANDE: TUMBLING TUMBLEWEEDS: ONLY FOREVER: DID YOUR MOTHER COME FROM IRELAND: YES INDEED (with Connie Boswell) BRAHMS LULLABY.

Biggest review of this release came from the mainly teenage paper "DISC", issue of November 11th, which headlined the L.P. review page "THE CROSBY STORY IS A JOY TO HEAR" by Nigel Hunters...so what more can I add to that?

over=

FRANK AND THE GROANER-IN-THE-GROOVE continued

And finally we come to EL SENOR BING, that long awaited L.P. from MGM which has at last made it's appearance. This is one of Bing's very rare solo L.P.'s these days. Bing likes to hide himself away in choruses and with other artistes just now, and whoever persuaded him to make this solo album is deserving of deepest gratitude and thanks. Here is Bing we love to hear...all by himself...and with a batch of great standards. Here are the titles: Side 1, IN THE STILL OF THE NIGHT: I COULD HAVE DANCED ALL NIGHT: C'EST MAGNIFIQUE: TAKING A CHANCE ON LOVE: HEAVENLY NIGHT: MY SHAWL: MARTA: THE ROSE IN HER HAIR: HOW HIGH THE MOON: OLD DEVIL MOON. Side 2. PAGAN LOVE SONG: CUBAN LOVE SONG: RAMONA: AMAPOLA: MALAGUENA: ANDALUSIA: DOWN ARGENTINE WAY: WHAT A DIFFERENCE A DAY MAKES: AGAIN: ALLEZ VOUS EN GO AWAY.

We had been hoping to give you a listing of all the new issue of 1961, but pressure of space has not allowed us to this time. However, just to bring your attention to a few that you may not yet have should help you for your Christmas shopping!!! Take a note of.....

from Decca, the terrific two-album set "HOW THE WEST WAS WON"
from MGM the superb L.P. BING AND SATCHMO
from Fontana the priceless "BING'S FAVOURITES" which is coming up for further comment in the next Crosby Post.
from MGM "The CROSBY BROTHERS" definately not to be missed.

Go to it, then, Collectors, and have a Happy-stocking-filled-with-Crosby- L.P.'s-for-Christmas!

SEASONAL GREETINGS FROM FRANK.

BING CROSBY'S MEMORABLE VISIT TO IRELAND ! Special Offer by FRANK.

Thanks to the enterprise of our good friend George O'Reilly, who sent me a terrific set of press cuttings, we have a beautiful picture of just how delighted Bing's friends in Ireland were to have him visit them recently. I am anxious to let you all have a look at these press reviews etc., and I think the best way would be to send them off on a tour of the country by a rota scheme. If you would like to receive these for your quick perusal, please send me your request not later than Jan: 1st 1962. It is essential that if you decide to be put on the mailing list, that you adhere strictly to the rule that you must pass them on to the next name to yours on the list within three days. Also you must promise me that you will treat them with great care, for I treasure these souvenirs of Bing's trip to Ireland very dearly, and they are to occupy a place in my Crosby files. I know you will be very thrilled to see these cuttings with delightful shots of Bing on his tour of the golf courses, and it is with kind consent of George that I have the honour of placing this offer before members.

SPOTLIGHT ON DISCS ^{ERIC} by GRIFFITHS

I did intend to "spotlight" a song called "STAY WELL" in this issue, as I thought it would be interesting to relate that when Bob Roberts and I were talking to Bing at the film studios, we mentioned this title and got a laugh when Bing said "I don't remember making that one, still if I did I hope I got paid for it!" However, the theme "The Christmas Song" is to my mind one of the best of the seasonal tunes. The Ken Darby Choir are also featured here, and as usual they give just the right backing to Bing. 'Our Boy' does some whistling here, too. The song has good lyrics which give the picture intended. John Scott Trotter's Orchestra completes the line-up; issued on Brunswick 04734, and recorded 19. 3. 47.

Although in past years I have dealt with "Silent Night" and "Adeste Fideles", I don't think I have mentioned "White Christmas". I don't need to say much about this one because I imagine everyone knows it so very well! For the record, though, here are the commercial issues: Brunswick 03384 - 29.5.42, "B" Master. He re-recorded 19.3.47, and issued this on LP LA8686 (Also EP CE9069). "A" Master this time. The arrangements and also the backing of Ken Darby Choir and John Scott are the same as the first one. The later issues of course, featured Peggy Lee, Trudy Stevens and Danny Kaye with Joseph J. Lilley Orchestra on LP-LAT8044 (10.4.54).

Then on 24.12.55, issued LP-LAT8216 and EP-OE9415 with the Norman Luboff Choir and Paul Weston Orchestra.

NON-COMMERCIAL CORNER.

If there are not enough versions of "White Christmas" available commercially, then there's plenty in the other section. Here's a few, and my list isn't complete. V Discs 44I (22I) Navy 797. Both have a choir with Bing. Song Sheet No. I-October 19th 1942 (Broadcast to Forces) even gave lyrics at dictation speed and the Chorus twice. Skitch Henderson was on piano. Many others have been in various Radio shows (such as Philco 18.12.46) or TV; the latest of which was completed on 12.II.61 at the Wembley Studios. Unfortunately it appears we shall not have this on British TV. "The Christmas Song" too, can be found on V Disc 796, and it's a very good version, too.

END

BING CROSBY - HOLLYWOOD - November 8, 1961

Dear Frank;

Re the photo on your membership card, enclosed
is Bing's favorite.

Best regards

Signed Larry

Larry Crosby



Dear Larry,

Our sincere thanks
for sending us Bing's favorite
photo, it is now of course a
top favorite of ours too,

Bing-cerely,

Frank

RIGHT:
Three junior Bing fans
There names?--;
ANGELA, MICHAEL & JANET
MURPHY.



GROZ TALK

by
JACK MANNERS

Well, folks, Mr Bing is back in the United States after his stay with us, which I believe stretched for over four months! During this time many members (but not all, sad to say) had the great pleasure of shaking the maestro by the hand...an experience never to be forgotten no doubt!

For myself, however, the visit to Shepperton was a bitter-sweet adventure...great on the one hand to meet our hero once again, but on the other a sense of failure at not securing a full club meeting. But in fairness to Bing, I will say he left the door open until the very last moment, but probably found his commitments too great to allow him that short time with us that we had hoped for. It is easy to be wise after the event, but I must admit I missed the boat in some respects. I know now that I could have fixed it for quite a number of our clan to visit the studios. But I am afraid I relied too much on the last letter I recieved from Miss Smith in which she held out only small hope of a club meeting. But at least it was a "chance shot".

I feel my apologies are needed to such staunch members as Ted Laker, Jack Saunders, Ken Milford, Bill Inman and Charlie Tupper, to mention a few, and can only hope they will forgive what I would term my short-sightedness. It would be quite simple to adopt a "don't care" attitude, but I do happen to have the interests of the Club at heart, and as an active member I do feel this failure very much. In this respect, I know only too well that Frank and Cecil are with me.

No words of praise are too great for Miss Jilda Smith and Miss Easton, who have done their utmost for our cause, and who have made the visits of many members possible.

I did mention in the last issue of "Post" the need for more meetings of members in the North, Midlands and South, as I feel the need for more personal contact. It is a great thing really to get to know as many members as possible. I did manage to hold one meeting some time back, and it certainly gave me the chance to make some very good friends.

Perhaps Frank will hold one for members up North, sometime next year...I will even try to go myself! If any member in the Midlands could fix one, it would be very much appreciated. I myself, feel the need for one "way down South" in the New Year, and hope to invite all to No.8.

I think it can be said that Bing enjoyed his stay with us, and he must have been impressed at the number of people who tried to see him, apart from members of the Society. I am given to understand that some hundreds of people in various parts of the country were continually ringing up Shepperton with good wishes to Bing, and I think the whole staff at the studios were sorry when the film was finished. Bing and Bob had kept the place alive with their humour, and proved themselves two of the most popular stars to work there for many a day!

During the last few weeks I have had the pleasure of meeting a few old friends...Frank, Cecil, Bob and Vera, Eric and Joan, Kathy Golder, Tommy Hughes, Les, Fred Reynolds and Frank Hatwell etc. And also a few new ones...Ted Laker, Percy Keepin, Jack and Betty Hale, Bill England.

continued over

CROZ-TALK Continued.

I guess the time limit was the reason for Bing not staying to cut a Christmas LP, but perhaps he will do so in America!

My one big hope, no doubt also shared by all, is that Bing was impressed enough during his stay here, to pay us another visit in the not too distant future. I did hear a whisper he may be back next year but nothing concrete. Bing is a great one for changing his mind!

I must mention that Bing received a terrific welcome in Ireland and I'm sure our old friend George O'Reilly had some great times with him

Well, as Christmas is almost upon us, I will take this remaining space to wish one and all a Happy Christmas, and that many Bing discs will be given their quota of spins! As I have always said, Christmas without Bing is have a Christmas Tree without lights.

I would also like to add here a Christmas Greeting to Rena of CLUB CROSBY, and all members. And the same sentiments to Priscilla, Pat and Rosaloe, who have made a fine start in their club for the Bing boys, Phil, Lindsay and Dennis.

Don't forget to write, any time, Members all!

END

from KATHRYN CROSBY to KIT MANNERS.....

Dear Mrs Manners,

The white lacy knit dress is beautiful.

The new baby will be proud to wear it, and I was particularly gratified to receive it, since I have absolutely no talent for knitting, crotcheting or needlework.

Mr Crosby joins me in sending you very best wishes.

(signed) KATHRYN CROSBY.

from Miss Jilda Smith to Jack Manners.....

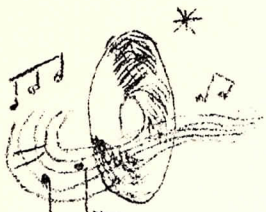
I am so sorry I haven't replied to your letter before now, but it's been pretty hectic as you can well imagine.

I asked Bing about the proposed meeting with the Society members and he said he would advise you if and when such a meeting might take place. However, I don't want to raise your hopes too much, for as you already know, Bing has little or no spare time, and so far, he plans to return to America as soon as the picture has finished.

A great many members of the Crosby Society have been down here and met Bing already, and although I know there are many who haven't, I do hope they will understand and appreciate how hectic picture making is, if no such meeting materialises.

(signed) Jilda Smith

Secretary.



* BOB
ROBERTS

Alternative Takes



A Merry Christmas everyone....I'm sorry I can't find any kind of Christmas Disc to write about under this heading, but here goes with a couple of real "Crosby Classics".

MR. CROSBY and MR. MERCER

Master DLA 1298

1. 7. 38.

Take "A" issued on Decca (USA) 1960

Bings sings "....get it to me now..."
"....I'm mighty glad y ou asked me..."
"....why you...." "...I'm at your service...."

Take "E" issued on BrE 02653

Bing sings "...ask me son..."
"...I'm glad you asked me..."
"...you don't say..." "...so happy to oblige..."

Victor Young's Small Fryers accompany Bing and Johnny Mercer on this great favourite of mine. By the way, has anyone any information regarding the "B"; "C" and "D" takes ? Drop me a line if you can help me in this, please.

IT AIN'T NECESSARILY SO

Master DLA 325

29. 3. 36.

Take "A" issued on BrE 02550

Bing sings "....Oh - it ain't necessarily so..."
"....it ain't necessarily soho oo oh ho..."

Take " ? " issued on BrE LA 8666

Bing sings "....it ain't necessarily so - no..."
"....Oh it ain't necessarily so ho ho..."

The accompaniment on this record is Victor Young and Orchestra.
The "?" take is definitely not "A". A "D" take is known to be issued in the USA on Decca 806 and Decca 25409.

continued over



ALTERNATIVE TAKES.....By Bob Roberts.....continued.....

When I visited Shepperton studios a couple of months ago, I had the great pleasure of watching Bing shoot two different "takes" for a scene in the film "Road to Hong Kong". As most of you are aware, three different versions of the film are being made. (1) For the American market; (2) for the English market and (3) for the Foreign market.

The idea being that all the topical gags will be worded to suit each different audience. In the scene I watched Bing shoot with Joan Collins, the difference was as follows:-

Take 1. Bing says to Joan "Business first, fun and games later"

Take 2. Bing says to Joan "Business first, social activities later"

It will be interesting to find out which "take" will be used in the release in England!

++++++

With this Christmas issue of "Crosby Post", I am concluding this series of articles on "Alternative Takes". Most of the other "takes" that I have checked vary so little that it would be very difficult to point out the difference in print. However I will be checking some "Whiteman" period takes in the near future, and hope to come up with something interesting for you.

I do hope that you have enjoyed these articles as much as I have enjoyed doing them, and I sincerely trust that it will prompt some of the younger members to some research into Bing's recordings.....I can promise you some interesting hours listening!

So once again....A Merry Christmas to you all, and a Happy and Peaceful New Year.

Happy Listening!

BOB.

++++++
EDITORIAL NOTE:- I am sure members will be sorry that the series of articles by Bob Roberts have come to an end. All we hope is that our most able writer will find something else just as interesting to enable him to contribute another series. Meanwhile, we must find an "alternative".....!

++++++

We extend a very special welcome to the following new members =

Mr Harry Martyn 15 Westgate Hill Terrace, Newcastle-on-Tyne 4.

Mr William Bell, 12 Longfield Terrace, Walker, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

Miss Jacky Redshaw, 67 Warrington Road, Elswick, Newcastle-on-Tyne 4.

Miss Gilda Findley, 63 Amhurst Road, Fawdon, Newcastle-on-Tyne 3.

Master John Flamson, 68 Rugby Gardens, Wrekeston, Gateshead 9, Durham.

Miss Mary Gallagher, 16 Tover Place, Beagon Lough, Gateshead 9, ; ; ;

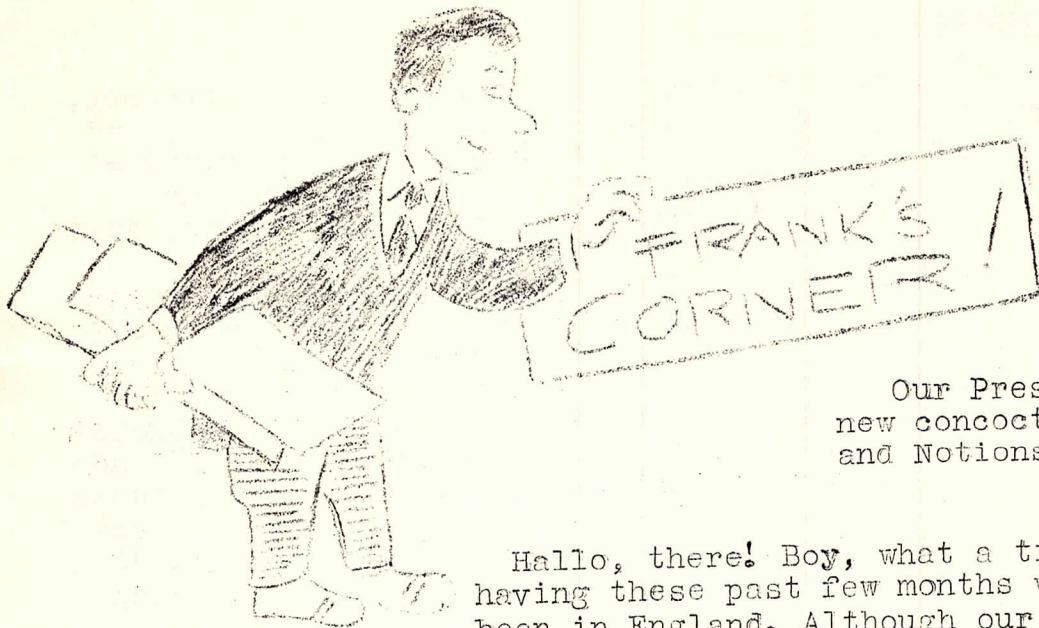
Miss Eleanor Temple, (same address as Mary!)

Mrs June Camble, 163 Hugh Gardens, Benwell, Newcastle - on - Tyne 4.

It seems President Frank has been dashing about a bit to get all these new members...how about us ALL having a bash at this "idea" of raking in a few new members ?

++++++

The Cartoon Competition which has been hanging around far too long, will be concluded in the FEBRUARY number of Crosby Post!



Our President presents a new concoction of News, Notes and Notions for all members.

Hallo, there! Boy, what a time we've been having these past few months whilst Der Bingle's been in England. Although our much hoped for club meeting with Bing in attendance did not come off, many of us have had the great pleasure of visiting Shepperton Studios for a chat with the maestro. It was gratifying to note that many of the Society's leading members made it, including Les Gaylor, Bob Roberts, and those Birmingham greats Frank Hatwell and Fred Reynolds, not forgetting our good friend Eric Griffiths. Although Bing did not give the O.K. for the club meeting, he did receive members at the studios with most gracious charm. On my last visit to the studios on November 1st., Bing's secretary Miss Jilda Smith told me that they had received many hundreds of requests from people anxious to visit the studio, but it was not possible to accomodate them all. I think we feel content that so many of us were made welcome. I would like to offer Jilda our most heartfelt thanks for the wonderful way in which she looked after us on our various trips to the studios.

THE BING CROSBY SHOW

It was especially nice of Jilda to allocate the Society 30 of the special tickets for this great show, and though I wasn't able to attend the show myself, I was ably represented by Jack Manners and Cecil Westrope and the other members who were lucky enough to be selected in the limited draw. This marked the first time that the club had been considered on such a large scale, and I like to feel that it was because of our importance in the Crosby cause that we were selected for those tickets. A report of the tele-recording will appear on the Stanley White page.

REPORT OF MY VISIT TO SHEPPERTON FOR THE PRESENTATION

Accompanied by my wife, Alma, and members John Maughan and Derek Parkes, we were on November 1st, invited by special invitation to Shepperton Studios to make the presentation of the beautiful Catholic Bible to Bing, on behalf of all those club members who sunscribed to the presentation. We first saw Bing at 12 noon. I introduced Alma, John and Derek, and each of us were treated to that friendly smile and warm handshake that so many have come to know these past months. Bing then told us he was doing a press appearance and that "I'll be with you all later".

(over)

"FRANK'S CERNER" continued:-

After a nice meal in the studio canteen, we were soon back on the set, and shortly after 2pm Bing arrived back. We all had little chats, and Derek had the great honor of having Bing autograph his discography = "TO DEREK...A GREAT JOB...BING CROSBY", and all those who like me know of Derek's great years of work on this subject, will realise just how thrilled he was to have such tribute paid as this one.

Bing had lined a photographer up for the presentation, and when he arrived, Bing came towards us saying "We'll do that now, Frank". I had the Bible out of its case...a blue and gold presentation affair.. and I showed it to Bing, pointing out the inscription which read :- "PRESENTED TO BING AND KATHRYN CROSBY AND FAMILY BY THE BRITISH CROSBY SOCIETY". I showed Bing the photo of His Holiness Pope John XXIII and he remarked "I met him last year in Rome". Then we posed for the photo with Bing holding one side of the Bible and I the other. For the next shot Bing said "Hold it up, Frank, so that they can see what it is".

Before parting, Bing told me to give the Bible to Jilda, saying "So I can get it packed for home".

I was very pleased that my choice of your gift met with so much approval; it was such a difficult decision to make. But the fact that Bing himself appreciated the Bible so much, more than justified the choice.

I must apologize most sincerely for the way I have neglected my letter writing of late, but there has been so much to do these days, what with moving house, etc., that it has been a trying period for me, I'm afraid. On top of everything else the poor October issue of Crosby Post made it essential that we do something about getting a new printing machine. This also caused a lot of "running around"! But one thing I would like you to fully understand, and that is that I do very much appreciate hearing from you at any time. But if there is a delay in my replying, you now have a rough idea of the reason. Keep on writing though...and the longer the letter the more I enjoy it!

I would like to record our sincere thanks to George O'Reilly for his unfailing endeavour to get Bing to attend a club meeting. At some considerable inconvenience George has been in touch with me both by telephone, letter and even telegram, in order to keep me fully advised of the current position. We are very grateful George! And many thanks for sending every club member a copy of the unique golf match souvenir.

I am sure all our members will be impressed with the fine photo of you with Bing on page of the booklet.

Here is a copy of the telegram we sent to Shepperton Studios as soon as we heard the wonderful news of the birth of the new baby:-

"TO Mr and Mrs Bing Crosby,
Shepperton Studios, Shepperton, Middx.

EVERY GOOD WISH FOR THE NEW BABY

signed Frank Murphy and The British Crosby Society."

(over)

"FRANK'S CORNER" continued:-

We would like to extend our most grateful thanks to those members who have so generously contributed to our printing fund. The total cost of the new machine was £58-16-0, and after the allowance of £7 which we received for the old machine had been deducted, and the 10% interest had been added, we were left with a total owing of £55-19-0, less a deposit of £10. So we now owe a total of £45-7-0 which is to be paid in 11 instalments of £3-16-7 and one of £3-17-2, so you can see that we have quite an expensive year ahead. We feel you will endorse our view that with the improvement in the current issue, and of the many advantages the new machine has to offer, our move was well timed and we hope you will all rally round us for the next twelve months.

Please support the many efforts we shall have to make to keep ourselves ahead with the monthly payments. We would welcome your kind donations at any time, as often as you like, and however small they may be they certainly will be very welcome indeed. We would ask you to remember that your effort on behalf of the club will be rewarded by a bigger and better Bing society in this country. I am sure that with this in mind we can rely on a 100% support from all of you. Please send your donations direct to me, and I will acknowledge them with a personal reply. I hope you will forgive my continued demands on your kindness, but it seems to me that the continued progress of our club fully justifies my requests, and I feel that you all share the enthusiasm of the Society's Officers for the general promotion of Bing and the club.

Only by your continued and valued support can we progress!

In closing, here is a copy of the letter I received from Bing just before he left for home.

"Dear Frank,

A note, just before I leave for America, to thank you and all the members of the Crosby Society for the truly beautiful Bible you gave me. I want you to know how very much I appreciate everyone's good wishes and I was deeply touched by their generosity. My only regret is that it wasn't possible to meet all the members of the Society, but we have had a very hectic time making the picture, and on this trip it just wasn't possible.

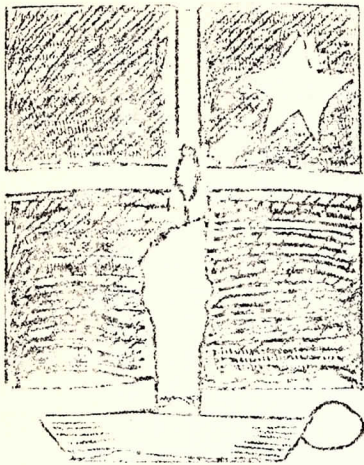
Please convey my thanks and very best wishes to all members.

Yours,

BING
(signed)

Incidentally, I hope you all like the copy of Bing's favourite picture in this issue. This was kindly sent to us by Larry. On another page you will find the photo taken at the presentation, it reads left to right:- My wife Alma, yours truly, BING, John Maughan, Derek Parkes.

BINGcerely, FRANK.



The Editor writes

A VERY HAPPY CHRISTMAS TO YOU ALL!

It is with great pleasure that I am able to give you another Christmas edition of Crosby Post under my editorship, and to see the results of our first effort with the new printing machine.

Perfection has not been reached yet, of course, as everything is new to Frank who is doing the printing, and there seems to have been a few changes since I last used the wax stencil system. So we have both got to learn our way along. But it shouldn't take long.

It was very pleasing to see such a grand lot of visitors to the Wembley Television Studios. I am afraid I appeared rather "out of it all" owing to the fact that I know so few members personally! When I first arrived at the studios I did speak to a couple of girls who I thought might be members of our gang. They both glared at me as if I was in the way...so I strolled away and tried a couple of men who were chatting rather loudly about Bing. I could not tell whether I had seen them before at a club meeting or not...but it was worth a try. But I was unlucky....they worked at the same studios they said, and were not interested anyway. But very soon I was able to chat to one or two members who I did know who introduced me to one or two others who I did not know...and it was all very very enjoyable! It was a Sunday afternoon and evening I would not have missed for anything. My sincere thanks to all concerned. And my very sincere regrets to those who may have thought I was rather "aloof"...that is if THEY knew me!!

Those members who were unable to attend will find a full account of the proceedings by Stanley White in this issue.

The December issue of HIT PARADE presents a very fine two-page article about Bing which I commend to all members. It contains a lot of which we Bing followers know about, but nevertheless it is worth reading, and it is illustrated with a photograph of Bing on which I based our cover for the April issue of Crosby Post. I feel we can do with more quality material like this HIT PARADE effort in the year ahead.

continued over

THE EDITOR WRITES.....continued

Although it does not come under my jurisdiction to review or even write about records, I feel justified in creeping in with a few words about "OLD MASTERS".....American issue. This copy of mine arrived a few weeks ago with help from TRANS ATLANTIC RECORD COMPANY of Ireland, and it is superb. Really superb in recording, and outstandingly smart in presentation. Yes, I am aware that it cost more than if I had just waited for the ABC OF CLUES issue...but I feel that it was worth just that much more. Some may not agree, of course. They will argue about paying for "decoration" etc., when it's the disc(s) that matter. To a certain extent I must agree. The quality of the disc(s) is vital; we seldom play the cover! But when a collection is presented in the way that the American OLD MASTERS is....spring-coil plastic binding, heavy transparent plastic cover.....nicely written album...printed in black, cream and gold.....plus a draw-type outer case finished in the same colour scheme.... it makes one feel proud to handle such a product. But also it shows very clearly how proud the sponsors of the disc(s) are of their products. Any L.P. disc is not CHEAP at the moment we part with our cash over the counter!...but with care in use their cost is very small by the end of their useful life. And if a L.P. is worthy of pressing at all....and what Bing record isn't ?.....I feel that it is worthy of a quality presentation album. And when it is an artist of the status of Bing, well, it's worth just that "something" extra, both to "present" and to buy.

The cover of this issue has not come through from the makers of the electronic stencil at the time of writing, so I am not aware as to how it will look after printing. But the actual drawing was shown to Bing early October time, and he said "That's just fine" and immediately took a pen and autographed it!! This took me by surprise! Naturally, I did not want to run the risk of having this souvenir spoilt...so I had to "do" it all over again. I hope the result warrants it.

My Sincere Good Wishes to You All in the coming New Year.

'bye now,

The Editor

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SPECIAL FROM MEMBER MR TED LAKER who wrote to Associated ReDiffusion

For any comments about the BING CROSBY SHOW tele-recorded at Wembley.

To Mr Ted Laker: "From a Directors point of view, it was a great pleasure to work with Bing Crosby. I found him most amenable, welcome to any ideas or suggestions, and always the first to arrive at rehearsal and the last to leave. He treats all the artists and staff in such a delightful way, that it is little wonder that every-one connected with the production put in that little extra enthusiasm which goes to make a good show."

PETER CROFT. Programme Director.

GREASY

LESLIE
GAYLOR

SHUTTLE

Dear Members,

Very soon another year will have passed, and for some of us 1961 has been a very exciting one in the meeting of Bing himself.

It would have been very nice if more members could have met Bing, but it would appear that he could not make arrangements.

Bing's dresser, Harry Jordan, told me that the poor man was very tired, so many people were constantly trying to meet him, and the mail alone he received from fans, business, etc, was tremendous.

I had the good fortune of meeting him three times at the Shepperton Studios on the "Road to Hong Kong" set, and at the great Television Show he recorded at Wembley Studios. Bing told me that he would be back in the New Year, and he said "Keep your eye on the news, you'll know where I am". My guess is that this may be when the "Road" film is shown in England about Easter. If so, need I say that I hope more of you will be able to meet him...it really is quite something.

In connection with the "Road to Hong Kong" film, Bing said that an Album featuring everybody would be issued: whether this means actual sound track recordings remains to be seen.

It was great to hear from Bing that they had a library back home of many recordings not issued, as yet. Bing wrote to tell me that he could only agree with what the U.S. Decca people had said in several letters to me re the possible release of any of these. That is owing to changing markets, these records were not issued, but may be at any time...providing "ideas" or "concepts" for LP release could be found.

Bing seemed to agree with me that when he does retire, recordings of his would be 'dug up' from all sources and released as for Glenn Miller. Naturally, on bended knee, I requested he would make "recording" the last thing he "packed up", and he replied that that was what might happen, but not for a long while yet! Requesting that he may make at least ONE lp per year for us fans, he said he'd like to but "would it sell?"

My three visits to Shepperton Studios were very pleasing to me, and with a number of our members I thoroughly enjoyed the T.V. Show...this was superb, and we had some good laughs. The way Bing put over "White Christmas" at the finale of the Show was just out of this World, really magnificent singing I thought. We were all thrilled to meet Bing before the show, and he shook hands with many of us, and one thing that sticks in memory was the member who when shaking hands with Bing said "I've been waiting 25 years for this Bing"!!

I would like to say again that Bing told me he would be recording songs in future, as he is now, those are established "hits" and the only new songs he will be recording are those that would be associated with him in films. My guess is that he'll do one or two new ones if they're O.K. to him!

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LESLIE GAYLOR's CROSBY CHATTER continued

I note in the "Melody Maker" that Bing has recorded the song for Shell as advertised on the Commercial Network and currently sung at the moment by Mike Holliday. They used a 36 piece orchestra for the session so it will be worth listening for. I'm not a lover of the Commercial Networks Programmes myself, but I'll keep an eye on the adverts in order to hear Bing.

I like the "El Senor Bing" LP very much, a nice selection of songs and Bing has been recorded very nicely and very similar to American Decca methods of recording. I myself consider it was a blow when Bing packed it up with Decca. I'm talking of technical reasons. Had Bing still been with them, the recordings would have presented him with that superb deep masculine voice as on "Gigi". However for me, I really go for the present day rich deep tones of Bing; these are evident on "El Senor Bing" and make up for the one or two songs that Bing seems to have taken on a little too high a key.

I still note the tremendous amount of material that is being written on Bing; a great feature by our very own Mr Charles Graves has appeared in "Woman's Mirror", and concerns Bing's wife Kathy and the way she came to meet the maestro.

I would like to ask you to write to Phillips Records and to request that they may release more Bing material from the American Columbia Catalogue for reissue on L.P. Our President Frank has already taken the lead on this...let us all back him up.

Messrs Squires of London are offering brand new Bing 10" M.P.'s at 13/9 each plus 2/- postage and packing. They have plans for further Specially reduced offers of Bing records.

Finally, may I wish all Members a Very Happy Xmas and Prosperous New Year!

My Best Wishes, LESLIE GAYLOR.

We acknowledge with most grateful thanks, the following donations to the new printing machine fund:

Dorothy Prestidge 2/6: Bob and Vera Roberts 10/-: Jack Manners 10/-: John Maughan 10/-: Derek Parkes 10/-: Jack Andrews 2/6: Alma Johnson 4/-: Jack and Betty Hale 10/-: Bill Smith 20/-: Larry Roe 10/-: Dennis Dyer 10/-: Joan Walton 2/6: Joan and Alan Taylor 20/-: Michael Crampton 5/-: Derek and Yvonne Bowles 5/-: our deepest gratitude for your wonderful effort to date.

Also received was a donation to our Bible presentation fund from Jack Manners, his 10/- being a bit of a blessing at the moment!!

The Editor offers you his sincere regrets if your CROSBY POST is not quite up to expectations...he was caught unaware over teething troubles connected with stencil cutting plates and machine going on the 'blink' at the last minute.

Will readers please note: All material for the February number of the Crosby Post must be in at our office not later than January 15th.

THANK YOU!

